

**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 3-5, as follows:

1. (Original) A needle bearing adapted to be mounted in an annular space between an external member and an internal member so as to allow a relative rotation between the external and internal members, the needle bearing comprising;

a retainer of a substantially-annular shape having a plurality of substantially-rectangular restriction holes therein extending in an axial direction of the retainer so as to be spaced at a predetermined interval in a circumferential direction of the retainer; and

a plurality of needle rollers each of which is received in the respective restriction hole at a radially-outward end portion thereof and is held in rolling contact with both of an inner periphery of the external member and an outer periphery of the internal member,

wherein a sliding-contact region, to which a restriction member for limiting an axial movement of the needle rollers is allowed to be brought into sliding contact, is formed on an end surface of the plurality of needle roller; and

a radial inner end of the retainer is spaced radially outwardly from a radial outer end of the sliding-contact region.

2. (Original) A needle bearing according to claim 1, wherein the retainer has an inner diameter which is uniform over an entire axial length thereof.

3 - 5. (Canceled)